

105 Drive

from 4-6 p.m.

Top 40 hits and info Team Eifel needs to know

News Briefs

Accidents

Eighteen Team Eifel members experienced vehicle accidents Feb. 18-23 and none of the accidents were classified as major. The 18 minor accidents involved 13 from inattentive driving, one from wildlife and four from backing.

In addition, 25 citations were issued, and two individuals were charged for Driving Under the Influence on Feb. 23. Our current DUI count is five for 2003. (Courtesy of John Keeler, 52nd Security Forces Squadron Reports and Analysis)

Spangdahlem protest

A group from Trier will hold a peaceful demonstration Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Spangdahlem Air Base main gate. The group is protesting possible war with Iraq. Base officials ask all Team Eifel members to avoid using the main gate during the protest times due to the possibility of disruptions and to avoid interacting with the protesters.

Basewide meeting

Col. Stephen Mueller, 52nd Fighter Wing commander, is hosting a “town hall” meeting March 13 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Spangdahlem AB Theater for all Team Eifel members. The agenda includes the status of deployments, spousal support and an open forum question and answer session with 52nd FW leaders.

Free childcare will be available through the Child Development Center at 452-5320, for children 6-weeks to 5 years; and the School Age Program at 452-7545 for 6 to 12 year olds. Parents of children who have never been registered with either facility should call the offices for information and to complete registration.

Road construction

Phase I of Arnold Boulevard pavement repair project begins Wednesday. Arnold Boulevard will be temporarily designated a one-way street from Riley Avenue to the base exchange parking lot. Detoured traffic will be routed to Perimeter Road. Drivers are encouraged to use caution when driving near the construction site and to obey the temporarily implemented detour signs.

Medical clinic closure

Most 52nd Medical Group services are closed March 6 for medical readiness training, contingency exercises and commander’s call. For urgent care, visit the Bitburg Annex hospital emergency room.

Spouses group meeting

The 52nd Security Forces Squadron Spouses Group meets March 6 at 7 p.m. in base building 215.

Runway rerouted

In keeping with Rhein-Main Transition Program construction plans, pilots must land on narrower path.

See the photo feature, “Spang’s Primary Runway Closes for Construction,” on Page 2

Eifel Times

Vol. 37, Issue 8

Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany

Feb. 28, 2003

Co-workers and friends congratulate Senior Airman Robert Davis, center, 52nd Communications Squadron computer systems management technician, for winning the 52nd Fighter Wing Airman of the Year award.

Staff Sgt. John Barton

Wing puts its best airmen forward at annual highlight awards banquet

Compiled from staff reports

At one of the Spangdahlem Air Base’s most prestigious ceremonies of the year, 52nd Fighter Wing officials honored its annual award winners Feb. 22 in a “transformed” base gymnasium. Base volunteers worked their “magic” for days, changing the room’s athletic interior to resemble a ballroom worthy of the wing’s outstanding airmen.

By the end of the special night, base officials deemed 12 wing members as Team Eifel’s best and 11 others as the best in special recognition categories.

Here’s a look at the wing winners for 2002:

Senior Airman Robert Davis, 52nd Communications Squadron, is the wing airman of the year. The computer systems management technician, is lauded for “filling a technical sergeant’s shoes” as the wing’s primary acquisition technician. As such, the airman engineered more than 80 information technology solutions valued at \$784,000. Their implementation is valued at saving the wing \$266,000. He also headed up distribution of \$900,000 worth of computers for the wing computer replacement program.

Off duty, Senior Airman Davis completed the wing airman professional development course to broaden his career knowledge and is pursuing a Community College of the Air Force degree in information systems technology.

Tech. Sgt. Brent Sheehan, 606th Air Control Squadron, is the wing NCO of the year. The heating, ventilation and air conditioning NCO in-charge is credited by his squadron commander for providing “unprecedented” support for the 386th Air Expeditionary Group while deployed to Kuwait. The NCO’s quick response to a power outage in the desert prevented disabling overheating damage to \$5.2 million radar transmission equipment. Additionally, the sergeant’s skilled maintenance and repair of more than 80 environmental control units significantly reduced service calls and equipment failures. He also reconfigured \$100,000-worth of tactical air conditioning equipment used for long-haul satellite communications to provide maximum efficiency.

Off duty, Tech. Sgt. Sheehan completed 12-credit hours of classes and earned two CCAF degrees. When not at school, he served as a volunteer youth sports coach.

Master Sgt. Jeffrey Wepner, 52nd Communications Squadron, is the wing senior NCO of the year. The computer systems management superintendent is recognized for leading an exceptional six-member information technology asset management team, which earned major command nomination for the 2002 Commander-in-Chief Special Recognition Excellence award. The SNCO is credited for inspiring his team of 200 equipment custodians at Spangdahlem Air Base and at wing geographically-separated units to lead the best computer replacement program in the command. Not only did the program meet its initial replacement goals, but the SNCO’s plan saved U.S. Air Forces in Europe \$300,000 and added 300 new computers to the list. He also received 52nd FW commander accolades for providing outstanding organizational computer man-

Tech. Sgt. Brent Sheehan

Master Sgt. Jeffrey Wepner

See Wing’s best, Page 2

Wing's best

Continued from Page 1

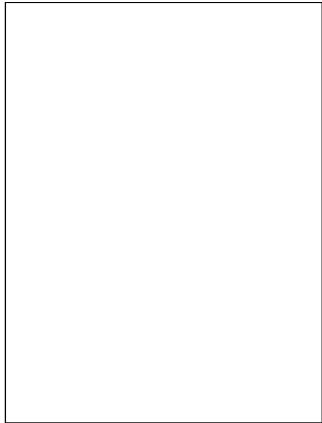
agement council leadership. The 17-member team implemented cost-free wing software training center upgrades, at estimated savings of \$30,000.

Off duty, the SNCO is a member Spangdahlem AB Top 3 organization.

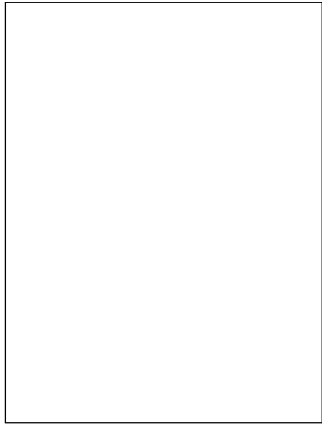
Master Sgt. Tilmon L. Hodges Jr., 52nd Medical Group, is the wing first sergeant of the year. As such, he has provided senior leaders guidance on maintaining the health, welfare and morale of 450 medical group members. The master sergeant proved his outstanding job skills when he successfully managed three group crisis situations, which took place within three months. Also to his credit, the first sergeant conducted a command-level fatality-prevention briefing to the USAFE commander's satisfaction. He developed and taught lunchtime supervisory skills lessons.

Off duty, the master sergeant has volunteered more than 190 hours for Airmen Against Drunk Driving and served as a guest speaker for base professional enhancement programs.

Capt. Charles Roberts, 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron, is the wing company grade officer of the year. The base development chief is a mission support group Lance P. Sijan leadership award winner and squadron military manager of the year. During 2002, the captain convinced Air Force officials to fund \$1 million for the base runway repaving project and developed a detailed "Base to Command" brief, which was used to report the status of wing construction projects to USAFE officials. He also gained \$1.4 million in congressional support for a future passenger terminal at Spangdahlem Air Base in support of the Rhein-Main transi-



**Master Sgt.
Tilmon L. Hodges Jr.**



Capt. Charles Roberts

tion project.

Off duty, the captain completed his master's degree in engineering and earned a professional engineer license.

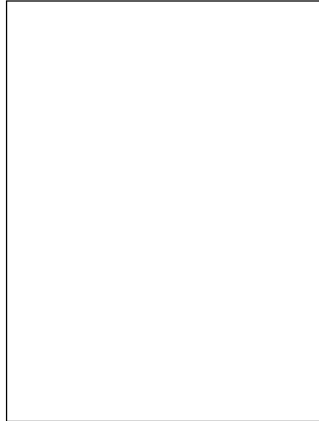
Ms. Tina Cloutier, 470th Air Base Squadron, NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen, Germany, is the wing junior-level civilian of the year. The child development program technician is praised by her squadron commander for "energetically tackling all duties and challenges with intelligence and confidence." In 2002, she assisted the air base school-age program to acquire national accreditation. Ms. Cloutier ensured the base program met the high standards the program demands. She also planned and managed a base school-age summer camp program, which provided nine weeks of entertainment for 40 children.

The child development program technician also organized field trip programs, which featured local law enforcement tours and discussions. She also designed a project to raise children's nutritional awareness and worked overtime to ensure all center administrative paperwork was complete during short-staff periods.

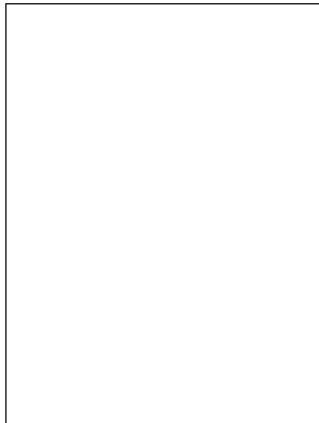
Off duty, Ms. Cloutier serves as a chapel volunteer and teaches Sunday school.

Mr. Robert Flowers, 52nd Equipment Maintenance Squadron, is the wing mid-level civilian of the year. In 2002, the corrosion control shift supervisor managed more than 12,000 maintenance work hours and served as the squadron expert aircraft painter. As such, he headed an F-16 repainting project, which was finished one day early and deemed flawless. He also received approval for the installation of more aircraft walkway lines to reduce the probability of damage at an estimated savings of \$20,000 per incident.

Off duty, the shift supervisor coached the base soccer



Ms. Tina Cloutier



Mr. Robert Flowers

club and was a Bitburg German-American club member.

Mr. John Brunfeldt, 52nd Services Squadron, is the wing senior-level civilian of the year. The Eifel Arms Inn manager is praised by the squadron commander for his "peerless devotion to the base mission throughout the year." In 2002, the manager led the base lodging facility to win the Air Force Inkeeper award. The lodging manager ensures employees deliver the best quality service by consistently checking customer surveys and reporting the results to staff members. Throughout 2002, Eifel Arms Inn customers gave the facility a 99 percent overall satisfaction rating.

Off duty, Mr. Brunfeldt participated in local volksmarches and supports the base drinking and driving prevention program.

Other wing members honored during the ceremony include:

■ **Maj. Clay Hall**, 22nd Fighter Squadron, instructor pilot of the year.

■ **Capt. Michael Richardson**, 22nd FS, flight lead of the year.

■ **Lt. Steve Frodsham**, 23rd FS, wingman of the year.

■ **Lt. Col. Richard Naughton**, 852nd Munitions Support Squadron, senior officer Lance P. Sijan leadership award.

■ **Maj. (then Capt.) Robert Ricker**, 52nd Operations Support Squadron, junior officer Lance P. Sijan leadership award.

■ **Master Sgt. Willie Ford**, 23rd FS, senior enlisted Lance P. Sijan leadership award.

■ **Tech. Sgt. Mark Smith**, 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron, junior enlisted Lance P. Sijan leadership award.

■ **Staff Sgt. Yvonne Nollman**, 52nd CES, honor guard member of the year.

■ **Dr. Thomas McCurdy**, American Red Cross volunteer of the year.

■ **Airman 1st Class Shawn Nguyen**, 52nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, foreign object damage fighter of the year.

■ **Master Sgt. Mark Buchholz**, 52nd AMXS, resource advisor of the year.

Spang's primary runway closes for construction

Safety top concern as operations shift to narrow aircraft taxiway

By 2nd Lt. Gerardo Gonzalez
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

The base primary runway closes Monday to undergo six months of scheduled construction in support of building projects connected to the Rhein-Main Transition Program.

Limited flying operations at Spangdahlem Air Base will continue during the closure period through the use of runway "23R/05L," also known as the "NATO parallel," a narrow taxiway running along side the main runway.

"This presents an extremely dangerous situation for 52nd Fighter Wing operations," said Master Sgt. Anthony Bunch, 52nd Operations Support Squadron airfield manager. "The 52nd FW will be operating on a 74-foot wide runway (half the width of the primary runway) that is only a few hundred feet from flightline facilities and vehicle operations."

Only mission essential people and emergency response vehicles will be allowed into the CMA (controlled movement area), he added.

The CMA is that part of an airfield used for takeoff, landing and taxiing of aircraft, said Maj. Robert Ricker, 52nd OSS airfield operations flight commander. It is designated as such because of its close distance to the runway.

"Due to the proximity to the runway, the likelihood of an aircraft and vehicle accident is higher," said the major.



A 52nd Fighter Wing F-16CJ makes a safe landing on runway "23R/05L," also known as the "NATO parallel."

Tech. Sgt. Joe Springfield

"Therefore, the (air traffic) controllers need to maintain positive control of who is out there."

Cause to worry lies in the fact that last year 17 violations of the CMA occurred, said Master Sgt. Bunch. People and vehicles entered the established boundaries of the CMA without permission from the air traffic control tower.

"There is no room for error and under no circumstances are personnel allowed to enter the CMA and runway environment without approval from the air traffic control tower," he said.

Those wishing to enter the CMA must be in two-way radio contact with the control tower in order to get approval, the master sergeant added.

Red warning signs caution drivers as they approach the runway environment and the NATO parallel. Other markings, known as "VFR (visual flight rules) hold position markings," further warn of the approaching CMA and are painted on the taxiways 100 feet from the edge of the runway. The VFR hold position markings are four parallel yellow stripes extending across the width of a taxiway, with the two closest to the runway dashed and the other two solid.

Aside from increased safety awareness, the runway construction brings along other temporary changes to operations.

Night flying will not take place while the NATO Parallel is in use, said Master Sgt. Bunch. The temporary runway will be used as a "non-precision approach" for daytime operations only.

Accepting large cargo type aircraft at Spangdahlem AB will also not be possible without halting construction and reopening the primary runway, said the airfield manager. That decision will require prior coordination and direction by wing leadership.

Once the \$16 million project is finished, the runway will have a 25-foot foreign-object-damage protection shoulder on both sides, according to Mr. Pete Neukom, 52nd FW transition officer. Other improvements include connection of taxiways, installation of "touch down" and approach lighting, and replacement of the instrument landing system equipment for "precision approaches."

The runway construction project is scheduled to be complete by September.

Singles experience own brand of deployment anxiety, stress

By Airman 1st Class Amaani F. Lyle
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

The freedom often associated with the status “single, no dependents” doesn’t seem as enviable when it’s suddenly time to deploy.

Deployment issues and coping strategies are often targeted at those with spouses or children. Single members often suffer the same types of stress, at times intensified by the lack of an immediate support group, said Capt. Arianne Henry, 52nd Medical Group Educational Developmental Intervention Services clinical social worker. The stress of co-workers’ pending deployments can leave those left behind to pick up the slack, and those who are in line to deploy can find themselves unfocused on their present work.

“We tend to focus on the deployed people who are leaving their family,” said Capt. Henry. “Single people who are leaving their life behind don’t necessarily have people to take care of the things that those people with family would. They don’t have spouses to pay the bills or take their cars to the shop. They have to tie up the loose ends by themselves.”

When asked how single deployed wing members should offset some of the stress associated with the move, Capt. Henry’s answer was simple: “Prepare, prepare, prepare.”

Capt. Henry said making lists of things you would need to do before you leave is vital in not getting mentally overwhelmed when the time comes to depart.

The following singles deployment checklist contains suggestions from the Lifelines Services Network, a Web site designed to provide information related to military matters.

Singles deployment checklist

Vehicle storage: The only authorized long-term parking area on Spangdahlem Air Base is near the softball fields. Also, check vehicle registration expiration dates and renew registrations before deploying.

Power of attorney: Deploying members must decide whether or not they need a power of attorney.

Service records: Complete Web-based emergency data cards by visiting the Air Force Personnel Center Web site at www.afpc.randolf.af.mil. Select the “vMPF” logo at the top of the page. Also, review all other deployment records to ensure information is correct.

Wills: Visit the base legal office to have a will drawn up or updated before deploying.

Bill payment: Set up pay allotments to automatically pay rent and electric bills through the banks on base. Call Bill Triplett, base personal financial counselor, at 452-6141 for more information.

Family: Ensure family members have the command address where you can be reached.

For more information on deployment counseling call the family support center at 452-6422. Visit Lifelines Services Network at www.lifelines2000.org for a more complete list

Members of the 52nd Munitions Support Squadron Two-Person Control Team, this week’s Top Saber Team, gather in a base no-hat area.

Top Saber Team

Unit name: 52nd Munitions Support Squadron Two-Person Control team

Unit responsibilities: Maintain two-person control of PCM (primary control material) at all times. The team is responsible for U.S. war reserve munitions in support of the Belgian air force, 10th Wing Tactical Air Command, in direct support of NATO and its strike mission. It’s also responsible for the emergency destruction or evacuation of the material, and safeguarding and accountability of more than 400 pieces of PCM.

Number of members: Seven

How does the team fit into the 52nd Fighter Wing’s mission? The team contributed to winning the U.S. Air Forces in Europe Communications Flight Medium Work Center of the Year award for 2001. It also achieved the group-level award in 2002. During the past two Headquarters USAFE Staff Assisted visits, the team received two superior team performer awards and a pat on the back from the USAFE Inspector General team. The two-person control team also supported the unit Sunday night football at the Lions Den, raising \$250 in supplemental funds for the squadron holiday party. The extra funds paid for tickets for E-5 and below.

Eifel Salutes

52nd Medical Group

Major Dewey Darden and Master Sgt. James Britt were the source for superior efforts in working resource issues for medical operations. Chief Master Sgt. Scott Aris did a “dine” and dandy job of arranging the 52nd Medical Group Annual Awards Luncheon. Staff Sgt. Sasha Eichler answered the call for help by stepping up to group practice manager’s office duties while her boss is deployed. Senior Airman Heather Lewis saved the day by single-handedly surging scads of preventative health assessments for the 606th. Say that five times fast! Combat medics to the rescue! Two hundred civil engineer troops are now “Team Eifel Ready” thanks to the medics’ support during CE’s pre-processing line. Sounds like Airman 1st Class Brandi Perryman worked very hard to perform 40 hearing tests in one day. Ears to her! ...How sweet it is! The 52nd Aerospace Medicine Squadron Morale Committee and Staff Sgt. Andrea Bixler sent cards and a box of candy to each person deployed from the medical group for Valentine’s Day.

52nd Operations Group

Team Eifel is “magna-cum-proudee” of Staff Sgt. Heather Carr for graduating from independent duty medical technician school.

52nd Mission Support Group

All members of the 52nd Security Forces Squadron should take a bow for keeping their cool and providing the base with courteous and professional increased force protection despite bitter cold, long lines and short tempers. Senior Airman Jennifer Fies helped a fellow wing member track down an enlisted performance report from a previous assignment in “record-locating” time for his promotion board here. Master Sgt. Byron Grays makes sure base people are dressed for success in the processing and distributing of 7,000 desert camouflage uniform items in support of worldwide taskings. Also “thread” and shoulders above the rest is Master Sgt. Grays’ team: Tech. Sgt. Ryan Helfenstein, Staff Sgt. Jennifer Buckmire, and Staff Sgt. Sonja Bragg. The hard-working Airman 1st Class Jeraby Dillon and Airman Ryan Graham complete the roster and have relocated to building 103 in order to better serve Team Eifel members.

Senior Airman Calvitta Collins wears the “badge of honor” for helping a wing member get his line badge on five minutes notice, after the office closed.

Kudos to all, Team Eifel salutes you!

(Compiled by Airman 1st Class Amaani F. Lyle, 52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office)

Tech. Sgt. Christopher L. Black, 52nd Munitions Support Squadron security force training NCO in charge, is this week’s Top Saber Performer.

Top Saber Performer

Name: Tech. Sgt. Christopher L. Black

Unit: 52nd Munitions Support Squadron, Kleine Brogel Air Base, Belgium

Duty title: Security force training NCO in charge

Hometown: Presque Isle, Maine

Years in Service: 14

Nominee’s contributions to 52nd Fighter Wing mission success: Although stationed at one of the 52nd Fighter Wing’s geographically-separated units, Tech. Sgt. Black greatly impacts the wing’s mission by providing security and custody training for more than 130 members assigned to his unit, said his supervisor. He is known throughout his unit as an enthusiastic and dedicated NCO. Additionally, major command security forces officials have recognized his ability to provide exceptional instruction as “outstanding.” A truly inspirational leader, this young NCO is a huge asset to the U.S. Air Force.

Off-duty volunteerism and professional development pursuits: With an understanding of the importance of building strong host-nation and U.S. relations, I helped organize the flight’s recent International Police Pistol competition, said Tech. Sgt. Black. More than 100 police from four different countries participated in the event.

What do you do for fun? My passion is traveling Europe and experiencing the diverse lifestyles associated with the different countries. My most recent excursion was to Cologne, Germany. This is my favorite trip since being stationed here in March 2001.

What do you like most about being stationed here? The Belgian people.

What’s one thing you’d like to see changed or improved at Spangdahlem Air Base? I would like to see a greater selection of items in the base exchange.

Local community leaders show base support

By Staff Sgt. Cindy Dorfner
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

As Spangdahlem Air Base approaches its 50th anniversary, it's amazing to think of all the friendships created during the past half century. Some relationships through those years have undoubtedly remained, just as some might have fizzled with the passing of time.

One bond that hasn't broken is the friendship between the Americans and their hosts, according to a couple of local Germans.

"Spangdahlem Air Base and the Eifel West housing area are very important to us," said Dr. Joachim Streit, Bitburg mayor. "Bitburg grew up, after World War II, with the Americans."

Right after the war, there were 13,000 Germans; 13,000 Americans; and 3,000 French; so American influence was incredibly noticeable, according to Dr. Streit. Even more personal to the mayor, he's always lived with or next to Americans.

Those relationships have continued to grow over the years, as Americans live, work, conduct business and socialize in the local communities. Even during current controversial world events, the local communities continue to offer their friendship and back base members to the fullest extent.

Mr. Andreas Gerlach, Speicher business association chairman, proudly represents all the Speicher business owners in showing support to the base.

"When we realized there were demonstrations around the world, and in Germany, against Americans, we started the initiative to show that we are not only living with Americans, but (also gain a living) from them," he said.

The initiative created a poster, which all Speicher business owners will hang in their windows.

"Herzlich Willkommen," the poster says around a display of German and American flags. "Friends are welcome."

A former resident of East Germany, Mr. Gerlach said he has special motivation to show support to his

friends at Spangdahlem AB.

"Without America behind us, there would not have been a reunification in Germany," said the chairman. "I see it. I realize what America did for us. But, I think some Germans forget."

Some may forget, but not all, according to Mr. Gerlach. He said he feels comfortable relaying the support of the local communities.

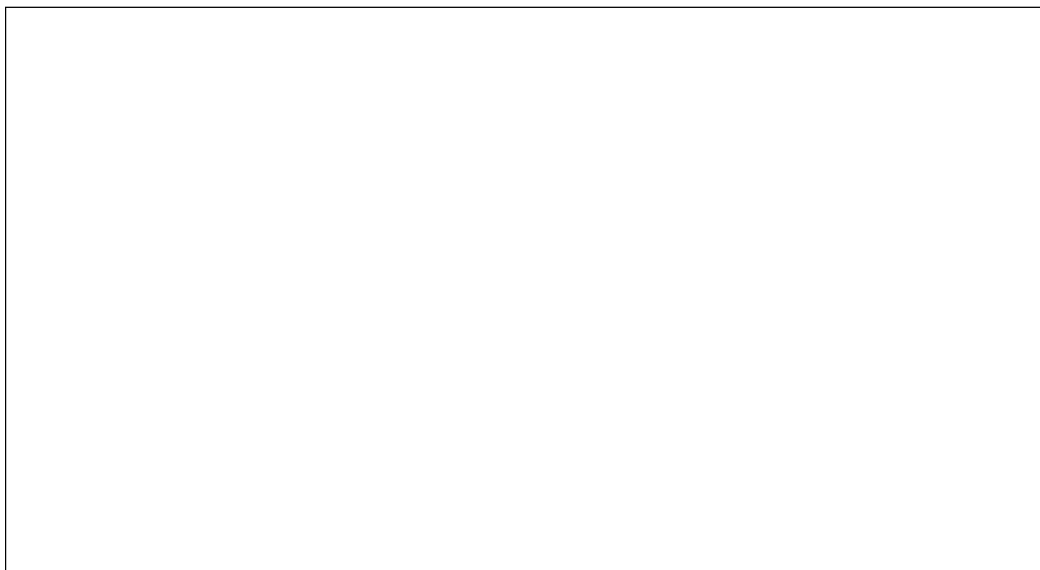
"We don't want demonstrations to disturb the friendship the community has had with the base for all these years," he said. "We're

Free days Bitburg Ice Skating Rink Wednesday 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 2-10 p.m.

Skate rental is also free; however, people who have their own are encouraged to bring them. Directions from Spangdahlem AB: Stay on B-50 until it reaches the T-intersection. Turn right going toward the center of town, until reaching a white sign on the right-hand side, with "Eissporthalle."

Cascades

March 31 from 1-6 p.m., pools only
Base members must show ID cards for free entrance on both free days.



Staff Sgt. Tim Cook

Above, Dr. Joachim Streit, Bitburg mayor, shares stories of his long-standing relationship with the Americans living in the local community and how many Bitburg business owners plan to show their support for the Team Eifel community. Below, the poster many local shops will display in the front window.

not just business owners ... we're community members and the Americans here are our friends.

"We realize there could be a certain hesitation with our American neighbors to come out in the community because of what's been portrayed in the media. From time to time, it's important to remind everyone of the friendship between the community and the base. I think now is the perfect time."

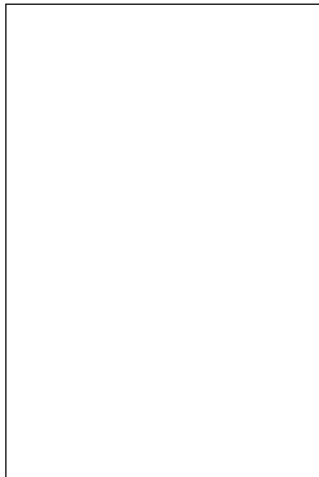
Dr. Streit agreed with the timing issue. One way the Bitburg community plans to show support for their American friends is through fun activities. People from the base are invited to share in a free day at the Bitburg ice skating rink.

In addition, Cascades offers free admission to its pools in late March.

Dr. Streit said his community is behind the

Americans who live here, both while they're home and deployed. While March is currently the only month scheduled for free activities, the mayor said more days might be planned.

"I hope that this mission is short, but if it continues, we continue."



The Mosel Hall dining facility is closed for renovations ...

Airmen check out what's cooking at the health and wellness center

Story and photo by Airman 1st Class Amaani F. Lyle
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

There's something in the air of the cooking demonstration room at the health and wellness center. It's a captivating aroma of garlic, rosemary and lots of red pepper flakes that make pasta all'arrabiata, or "pasta of the furious man," earn its fiery name.

Since the Mosel Halle dining facility closed for renovations, the HAWC singles cooking class has bubbled into quite a hit with the help of Staff Sgt. Jason Herman, nutrition technician, and spunky volunteer chef Ms. Jane Allen.

"I volunteered to cook chili once a month at the dorms, to show young, single airmen inexpensive ways to cook and give them alternatives to the dining hall," said Ms. Allen. "One evening I was there and asked an airman if he'd be interested in coming to a regular cooking class."

The class quickly caught on and she's now hoping it will evolve into a cooking club, which would meet once monthly or more until the reopening of the base dining facility.

Ms. Allen said she expects more hungry, health-conscious and budget-minded airmen to seek guidance in the class. She also hopes the classes can help counter the lore which claims newcomers commonly gain up to 30 pounds during their initial months in Germany.

Staff Sgt. Herman, who has worked professionally with food for about 12 years, said eating fast food can help airmen shed pounds, since a wallet with less money in it is always lighter.

"It's much cheaper if you cook for yourself," he explained.

Recipe: Pasta All'Arrabiata (Pasta of the Furious Man)

4 tablespoons olive oil 1 cup chicken broth
4 garlic cloves Salt (to taste)
Red pepper flakes 3 Tbsp. fresh parsley
1.5 cups tomato sauce 1 pound penne or ziti

Pour water in a saucepan on medium heat. Cook garlic and red pepper flakes about two minutes until sizzling. Add tomato sauce, broth, salt and 2 tablespoons of parsley. Bring to a boil and let simmer five minutes. Add cooked pasta and toss to coat over medium-high heat about one minute. Sprinkle with remaining parsley. Serve hot.

"So-called value meals at fast food restaurants can be anywhere from \$5 to \$7, but you can get noodles, vegetables and chicken for the same cost, which can yield several meals."

The nutrition technician noted that even seemingly "light" sandwiches and salads are not so healthy when loaded with mayonnaise, cheese, and such meats as salami and bologna.

Ms. Allen was careful to add that being healthy and saving money doesn't mean sacrificing flavor or flair. One of her more apt pupils boasted whipping up a Caribbean coconut chicken with chocolate fondue for dessert on Valentine's Day.



Airman 1st Class Lisa Zacarias, 52nd Logistics Readiness Squadron outbound customer service, Senior Airman Noe Navarro, 52nd LRS passenger travel, and Jane Allen, volunteer cooking instructor, each do their part to prepare the sauce for the pasta all'arrabiata.

"Jane is awesome," said Airman 1st Class Lisa Zacarias, 52nd Logistics Readiness Squadron outbound customer service representative. "She helped me step by step, and went shopping with me to help me plan and prepare a gourmet meal for Valentine's Day. Before I took this class, I couldn't even make macaroni and cheese out of the box!"

Ms. Allen said her cooking skills germinated through "a lot of trial and error, and reading lots of recipes."

Though it was made clear that home or dorm cooking can be cost-effective, simple and fun, both "chefs" agreed on the most important ingredient in any self-made dish — lots of heart and soul.

For more information on singles cooking or healthy, cost-effective eating regimens, call the HAWC at 452-9355.

Community Mailbox

Scholarships

The Spangdahlem Officers and Civilian Spouses Club offers three scholarships worth \$1,000 each to wing spouses. Pick up applications at the base education office, base library, family support centers and base clubs. Applications must be postmarked no later than March 21. Call the education office at 452-6063 or e-mail spang_ocsc_scholarship@-(no hyphen)yahoo.com for details.

Internet use special

Deployed spouses can use the Internet free for one hour at the Internet Cafe with a copy of their spouse's deployment orders. Call 452-5326 for more information.

Playgroups

A preschool playgroup meets each Tuesday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in Spangdahlem AB military family housing building 409-C. A playgroup meets in the Bitburg Annex temporary lodging facility, building 2. Playgroups offer parents the opportunity to build a support network. Call Ms. Michele Linnen at 452-8279 for more information.

Family support news

The following workshops take place in Spangdahlem AB building 307. Call 452-9491 for details.

■Preseparation consultation, Monday from 9-10:30 a.m.

■Federal job application, Tuesday from 9-11 a.m.

■Predeployment briefing, Tuesday from 1-2 p.m.

■Resume writing, Tuesday from 5-7 p.m.

■Chili night, dorm 227, Wednesday from 5-7 p.m.

■German bills made easy, Thursday from 8-9:30 a.m.

■Sponsor training, Thursday from 10-11 a.m.

■Local employment, Thursday from 1-3 p.m.

The following workshops take place in Bitburg Annex building 2001.

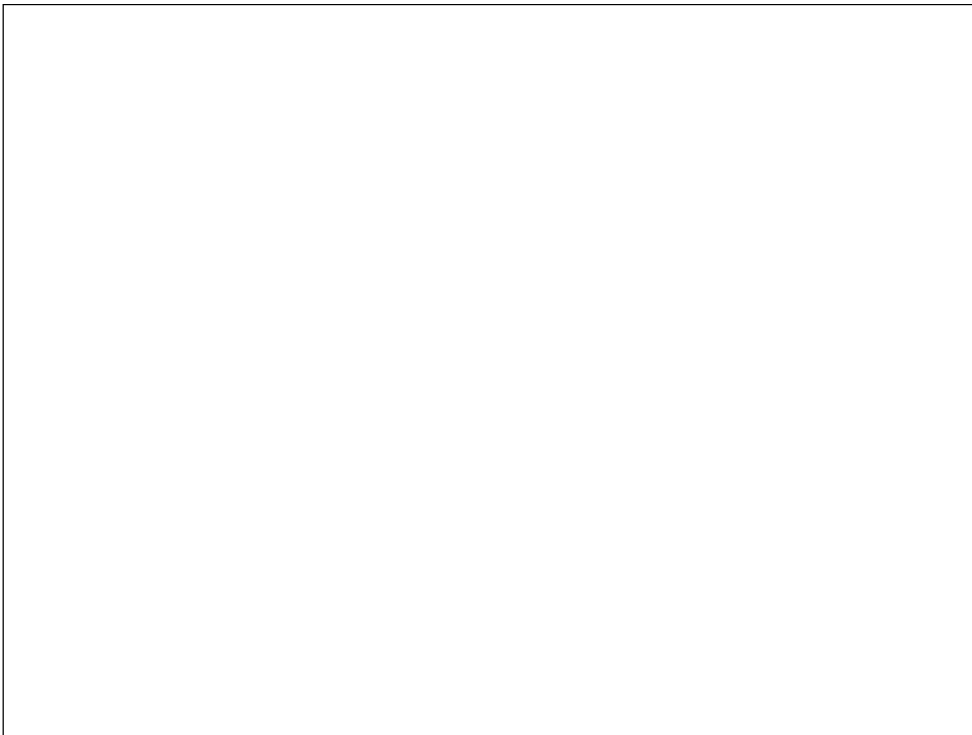
■Creative Critters, Monday from 10-11 a.m.

■Financial Planning, Tuesday from 6-8 p.m.

■Deployed movie night, every Tuesday from 6-8:30 p.m.

■Cooking for one, Wednesday from 6-8 p.m.

■Home buying, Thursday from 6-8 p.m.



Staff Sgt. Jennifer Lindsey

It's a small world!

Amy Kiger, holding baby Kayleigh, stamps Kurstin Foxworth's Thinking Day passport after the junior Girl Scout explored the Daisy Troop 704 booth on Japan, Feb. 22. Allison Calder, in blue, looks at the Japanese fare on the table. The troops donned costumes representing various countries and cultures from around the world during Girl Scout Thinking Day at Bitburg Elementary School Feb. 22. The purpose of the event is to encourage tolerance and understanding of cultural differences by sharing information about various countries.

Volunteer News

Volunteer help is needed at various base agencies. For more information, call Ms. Kelly Childs, base volunteer resource program manager, at 452-9491.

■Bitburg Elementary School seeks student mentoring volunteers one hour weekly. Teachers provide assignments and materials. Call Ms. Carolyn Forbis at 452-9215 or 06565-619215 for more information.

■The Spangdahlem Spouses and Enlisted Members Club seeks volunteers to help with the spring bazaar March 14 from noon to 8 p.m., March 15 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and March 16 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in hangars 1 and 2. Call Ms. Linda Rooney at 06565-933688 or 06565-955821 for details.

■The 52nd Fighter Wing Annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony takes place April 24. Categories are expanded this year to recognize as many different individuals and groups as possible. Nomination packages are due by March 28.

Catholic service

Adoration takes place each Friday from 9 a.m. to noon and 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Spangdahlem AB Chapel Blessed Sacrament room. Call Ms. Leslie Marsh at 06575-903463 or e-mail jlcsj911@t-online.de for details.

Community Bank closure

Community Bank is open March 12 from noon to 4 p.m., while the Bitburg branch is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. as a result of monthly training. On March 13, the Bitburg

Annex branch is open from noon to 4 p.m., while the Spangdahlem AB branch is open from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Telekom moves

The Bitburg Annex TKS shop is now located in the concessionaire mall. The shop is open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

CAC news

The following events take place in the base community activity center, building 124. For more information call 452-7381.

■People interested in playing bridge or would like to learn, can call or stop by the community center.

■The chess club meets Saturday in the CAC ballroom. The club meets the first and third Saturday of each month

Skills classes

Register for the following craft and skill classes by calling Craft and Party Central at the CAC, building 124 or by calling 452-4141 unless otherwise specified.

■Framing, one-day beginner class, March 8 from 9 a.m. to noon. Cost is \$25. One-day advanced class, March 15 from 9 a.m. to noon. Cost is \$20, plus the cost of materials. People must sign up at least seven days in advance. Call the frame shop at 06565-955980.

■Basketweaving, March 20 from 5-10 p.m. Cost is \$25, plus \$15 for supplies.

■Tole painting, March 25 or March 27

from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Cost is \$12, plus the cost of wood. People must sign up for classes at least seven days in advance.

■Basic auto care, March 12 from 5-6:30 p.m. Cost is \$10. Call the auto skills center at 452-6842 to register.

■Quilting, March 22 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost is \$20.

■Art Class, March 4, 11, 18 and 25 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Cost is \$45, plus the cost of supplies.

IRS tax form service

Service Credit Union now provides laser-printed IRS tax forms for 2002 and previous years. Call 452-6674 for more information.

Education center news

The base education office is located in building 192. Call the office at 452-6063 for more information.

■City Colleges of Chicago closes its European division July 31 and ceases student enrollment on March 14 for all 16-week courses and April 25 for all 10-week courses. Students wishing to enroll with CCC after these dates will be able to do so through Harold Washington College. For more information, visit www.ccc.edu/hwashington/programs/military/htm, beginning June 1 or call the base education office.

■Embry-Riddle offers an air transportation class starting March 21, an aviation legislation class starting March 28. Distance learning courses can be taken while on temporary duty. Classes start monthly on the 15th and are covered 100 percent by Air Force tuition assistance. The student's only cost is for books. The university branch also seeks instructors for math and statistics courses. Call the branch office at 452-7553 for more information.

■U.S. Air Forces in Europe members who converted from VEAP to the MGIB during the last conversion period must pay \$2,700 within 18 months of the day of signing Defense Department Form 2366 to enroll. For more information, call Mr. Hiram Wood at 480-6888.

■Students can now create personal Air Force Virtual Education Center accounts and access online customer service tools. Services include Community College of the Air Force transcript requests and CCAF degree progression reports. Visit the AFVEC site at <https://afvec.langley.af.mil> for details.

Alcoholics Anonymous

Meetings takes place each Tuesday, Friday and Sunday at 7:30 p.m. in Bitburg Annex building 2015.

EDIS news

Infant and toddler developmental screenings take place each first, third and fifth Monday monthly from 9-11 a.m. in the EDIS clinic. The clinic is in Spangdahlem Air Base building 161. Call 452-8238 for details.

Der Markt

Free classifieds policy and submission deadlines

Der Markt is for the personal resale of items by military and civilian employees and their families. Items such as advertisements for rental property won't be published due to funded paper restraints. Ads should be 35 words or less and customers are limited to no more than two ads per week. Ads must be typed or printed legibly and turned into the public affairs office, building 23, at least **10 days before the desired date of publication**. Ads can also be e-mailed to publicity@spangdahlem.af.mil or sent via fax to 452-5254. Having ads in by deadline does not guarantee publication. Ads for services generating regular income will not be published. The ads must include the sponsor's name and telephone number. Ads not meeting these requirements, including those exceeding the designated word limits, will not be printed. The *Eifel Times* staff reserves the right to edit ads.

Col. Stephen Mueller

Accessing Direct Line

The Direct Line program is a way to get answers to questions you still have after using your chain of command.

Direct Lines of general interest will be published in the *Eifel Times* and may be edited or paraphrased for brevity or clarity. Submit your Direct Line via:

- DirectLine@spangdahlem.af.mil
- Mailed to 52nd FW/PA, Unit 3680 Box 220, APO AE 09126
- To PA in building 23.
- Concerns may also be sent via fax to 452-5254.

Anonymous inputs are accepted. To receive a personal response you must include your name and phone number. Call the Eifel Times at 452-5244 for more information.

Sortie Scoreboard		
Unit	Goal	Flown
22FS	126	81
23FS	56	60
81FS	66	68
Sorties flown Feb. 17-23		
(Courtesy of the 52nd Maintenance Squadron Plans and Scheduling Section)		

Safety first

Think before you drink; don't drive

By Tech. Sgt. Robert Brown
52nd Fighter Wing History Office

It's Wednesday. Spangdahlem Air Base's senior leaders, squadron and detachment commanders, and staff agency chiefs are all gathered in the wing conference room for another wing staff meeting.

There is often some good-natured humor displayed during the otherwise serious meeting that can put smiles on even some of the more weary faces present in the room. Those same smiles fade rapidly though when Lt. Col. Larry Laird, 52nd Security Forces Squadron commander, presents a slide depicting the current number of vehicle accidents and driving under the influence incidents experienced during the calendar year by Team Eifel members.

The room becomes silent as each member looks to one another in an effort to find a solution to both of these challenging topics.

The discussions at these staff meetings don't center on the punishment that should be bestowed upon members who drive recklessly or people who don't think before they get behind the wheel of a vehicle while intoxicated. Instead, I hear Col. Stephen Mueller, 52nd Fighter Wing commander, echo some of the same comment as his predecessors, "I look at each of the major accidents and DUI incidents as a possible fatality."

Team Eifel members averaged at least 400 vehicle accidents every six months during 2001 and 2002. Security forces members classified at least 25 percent of these incidents as major accidents due mainly to inattentive vehicle operation

Have a plan before partying

Before taking that first drink,
have a plan for getting home.
*Designate a driver,
call a taxi or
sleep it off where you are.*

If these options don't work, call:
**Ride for Life, 06575-95-1010
or Airmen Against
Drunk Driving,
06565-61-2233.**

or driving too fast for conditions. Additionally, the wing averaged at least one DUI per week during 2001 and 2002. At a time when commanders are trying to ensure their people have the right training necessary to successfully accomplish their Air Force mission, these two topics weigh heavily on their minds.

Although Spangdahlem AB is the sixth air base that I have been assigned during my 16 years of service, the number of vehicle accidents and DUI incidents easily surpasses the totals recorded at those other locations. I find this hard to believe because of Spangdahlem AB's proactive safety office, numerous transportation programs, and commanders and supervisors who truly care about their troops' welfare.

It's interesting to compare Spangdahlem AB

Outside the box

Being 'deaf' has its advantages says leader

Not knowing 'how its done' opens possibilities to doing better

By Maj. Chris Ruefer
52nd Contracting Squadron commander

Will and Fern were two frogs who fell into a deep pit. As they desperately jumped and jumped, trying to escape, a crowd gathered around the pit. The other frogs could see that there was no way they could get out, so they began to urge Will and Fern to accept their fate and give up. The more the trapped frogs jumped, the more the crowd yelled at them to surrender. Finally, Will fell back to the bottom, gave up and died. Fern kept trying as hard as she could. Finally, she made it out of the pit with one valiant jump.

Asked how she kept jumping despite the hopeless yelling of the other frogs, Fern was shocked. "What do you mean, 'hopeless'?" I'm a bit deaf. I thought they were encouraging me and cheering me on."

The true power of encouragement is practically limitless. There are thousands of real stories like this one where people blind to their limitations were able to accomplish the impossible. Haven't we all witnessed motivated newcomers with fresh ideas being told, "this is the way we've always done it" or, "it can't be done?" The truth is they

may be providing us with an untainted view of how things might be improved.

One of my favorite real-life examples comes from the Navy procurement community. A newly hired contracting civilian was given responsibility for an up-coming procurement. Unfortunately, the customers she needed to help were all at sea. Although the local standard practice in situations like this one was to wait for the ship's return, it seems this "standard procedure" hadn't been explained to the new civilian.

She didn't like the idea that valuable lead-time would be wasted. Why not buy what they needed now so it would be waiting when they returned?

Noticing that a military helicopter made regular trips to the ship while at sea, she arranged to travel out, meet with her customers, return and begin sourcing their requirement. She had the items needed waiting for them when the ship docked.

When asked by her co-workers why she didn't just wait for the ship to arrive-the way they always did, she replied, "If I'd known that's how things were always done I may not have tried. Since I didn't, and nothing prohibited me from actually

with my first duty station, Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M., in 1986. At the time, Kirtland AFB didn't have the Airman Against Drunk Driving program or many of the other well advertised anti-DUI programs that we have here at Spangdahlem AB. In fact, I would wager that I would have had a very different experience if I had called my supervisor or first sergeant between 1-3 a.m. for a ride home as has happened here. Additionally, my chain of command had no tolerance for members with a long history of reckless or careless driving incidents.

Think about what you are doing when operating your vehicle on the Eifel roadways. Keep in mind that that the Eifel region is famous for sudden climatic changes, which produce fog or ice. Also contributing to the problem is the fact that many of the roads here are harder to navigate than most of those you would find in the United States and often have higher speed limits as well. You never know when you will go around a sharp turn and encounter a tractor, moped or an animal in the middle of your lane.

Additionally, I also ask that you to think before you get behind the wheel of a vehicle while intoxicated. Germany offers some of the best alcoholic beverages in the world, but don't operate a vehicle after drinking. Try to plan your transportation arrangements before ever leaving your residence. If you do find yourself in a bind to get home after drinking, call AADD, a taxi, a friend, relative or supervisor, or even your commander if necessary. Not only will this decision save your Air Force career, but more importantly, it may save your life.

Movies

All movies play at 7 p.m. unless indicated otherwise.
More synopsis information is available at [www.aafes.com/-\(no hyphen\)ems/default.asp](http://www.aafes.com/-(no+hyphen)ems/default.asp).

Bitburg Castle

Today

Just Married (PG-13)

The honeymoon of two young newlyweds from wealthy families turns out to be the worst one imaginable. (Sexual content, crude humor, and drug reference.)

Saturday

Die Another Day (PG-13)

Bond is on the trail of new villains — the deadly megalomaniac Gustav Graves and his ruthless right-hand man, the North Korean Zao. Along the way, Bond crosses paths with Jinx and Miranda Frost, before entering the villains’ lair. (Violence and sexuality.)

Sunday

Treasure Planet (PG, 4 p.m.)

Fifteen-year-old Jim Hawkins, joins the crew of an intergalactic expedition as cabin boy aboard a space galleon. Befriended by the ship’s cook, a cyborg named John Silver, Jim blossoms under his guidance and shows the makings of a fine “spacer” as he and the alien crew battle supernovas. (Action and peril.)

Just Married

Closed Monday and Tuesday

Wednesday

Just Married

Thursday

Treasure Planet

Spangdahlem Skyline

Today

Kangaroo Jack (PG)

Two friends are forced to deliver mob money to Australia. However, when a kangaroo bounces off with the money they’re forced to chase it through the Outback. (Language, crude humor, sensuality and violence.)

Adam Sandler’s Eight Crazy Nights (PG-13, 10 p.m.)

Animated. Davey faces prison when a friend proposes that he work with him refereeing a local basketball league. Can Davey rise above his self-destructive habits? (Crude humor, drinking and drug references.)

Saturday

Kangaroo Jack

Hot Chick (PG-13, 10 p.m.)

A popular, mean-spirited teen-age girl wakes up one morning as a man. Along the way to finding out how she ended up in the situation, she discovers how cruel she’s been. (Crude humor, language and drug references.)

Sunday

Adam Sandler’s Eight Crazy Nights

Monday

Hot Chick

Tuesday

Kangaroo Jack

Closed Wednesday and Thursday

Times and movies are subject to change.
For the most current information,
call 452-9441.

Remember Me?

Will you remember me?

Me, the marine, the soldier, the seaman, the airman

I am your symbol

Symbol of peace

Yes, peace in my constant aggressive, determined, well planned

Scheme, for that dream of world equality

I am your symbol of this place

For the human race

I bleed not only red, but white & blue

Giving my life with all that I can do

I stand tall ready...

Ready I fight for our human rights

For our system of inspiration to give the world insight

Fighting for our freedoms

Freedom...

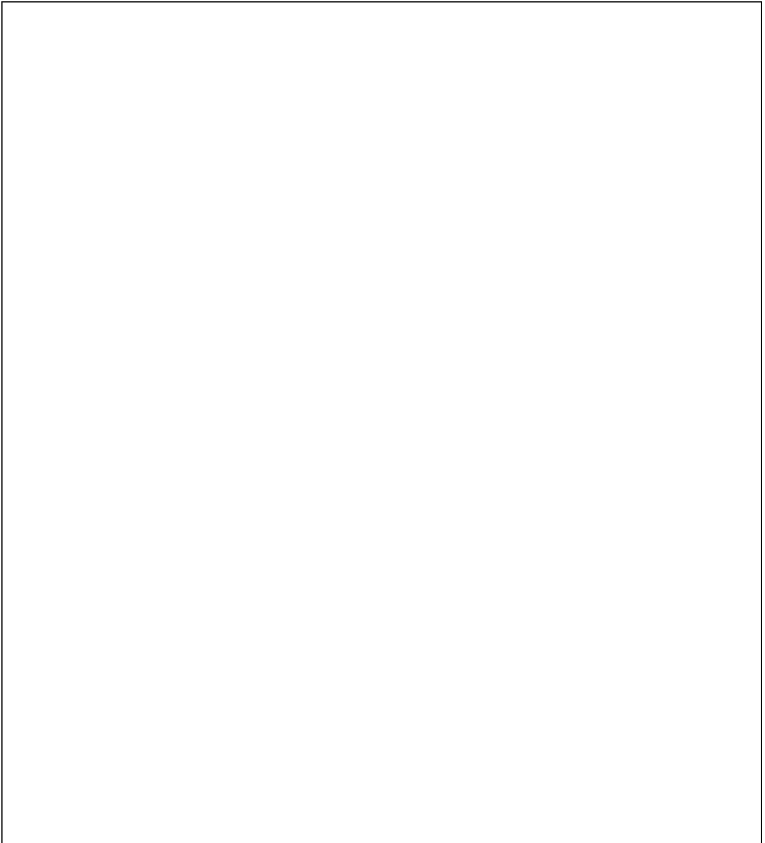
Remember me when I go

With that yellow ribbon

Praying that safely I come home

Will you remember me?

Excerpt of original poem by Mr. Mervyn R. Seivwright (c) Sept. 15, 2001



Mr. Waldane Alladin recites a poem at Spoken Word Wednesday. The Spangdahlem Air Base school-age program assistant has written numerous original works on varied topics and has even had some works published.

Words take center stage poetry night

Club’s Spoken Word Wednesday gives bards place to bare soul

Story and photo by Airman First Class Amaani F. Lyle
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

A hush falls over a dimly lit room filled with dozens of spectators that seem almost incongruent with the intimacy of the setting. Waldane Alladin, a civilian assistant in the base school age program, stands before them. He has a manner of speaking that takes his listeners somewhere else, the way a lively monologue might, but this style of performance has a distinctive knack. The unique candor and bluntness of spoken word poetry sound almost conversational, save for a rhyme here and there.

“Spoken word poetry is a crock pot of feelings,” said Staff Sgt. Walter Campbell. “Every poet is different, and every piece is dictated by their mood. There are no rules.”

The 52nd Logistics Readiness Squadron systems manager is both the emcee and one of three founding members of Spoken Word Wednesday. Though the Saber club lounge event began humbly three years ago, the staff sergeant said spoken word has picked up considerable momentum, now drawing a number of civilians, enlisted and officers.

One of the founders of the group, Staff Sgt. Mervyn Seivwright, 606th Air Control Squadron, enlisted the help of Staff Sgt. Campbell, who connected him with 1st Lt. Rashul Freeman, 52nd LRS, and an avid stateside spoken word fan. The trio began when Staff Sgt. Campbell invited Staff Sgt. Seivwright and 1st Lt.

Freeman to perform at a comedy show at Ramstein Air Base, where the two recited some of their poetry to the audience before the comedians’ sets. The show was a success there and soon spoken word was revived at Spangdahlem Air Base.

“I started this show to create an emotional outlet and a more mature form of entertainment,” said Staff Sgt. Seivwright.

Their emotional outlets have helped widen the fan base, as the group was invited to France in October for the Paris Soirees, a venue that has sponsored cultural events for more than 17 years. The group has also performed at the 3rd National Virginia Poetry Slam in the United States in January.

Despite the poets’ growing popularity and pending travel plans, giving back to the community seems to be a significant aspect of their overall plan.

“We’ve been in the schools in hopes of conducting free poetry workshops this summer that target the 10 to 18-year-old range,” said Staff Sgt. Seivwright. “We also want to arrange youth competitions with monetary prizes.”

Staff Sgt. Campbell said professional and would-be poets can participate and get immediate, honest feedback on their original work.

“People come here to express their thoughts about family, war, life, death, love, anything,” he said. “For the amateur poet, this is where you can test your material and vibe off other poets. You’re at home here.”

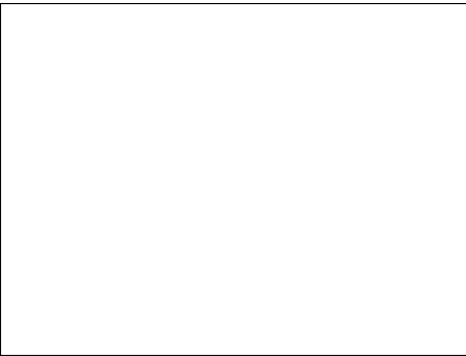
Spoken Word Wednesday takes place the first Wednesday of each month at 8 p.m. and holds a \$50 random drawing.

Out and About

(Editor’s note: Event dates and times are subject to change. To confirm event details, call the telephone information office at 11833 and ask for a number to the tourist office in the town the event takes place. For event tickets, call the Press-Center Trier at 0651-14599-30, the Trier Tourist Information Office at 0651-9780822 or the Trier Ticket Service at 0651-9941188, unless specified otherwise.)

■Fasching parades take place Sunday in Wittlich at 2:11 p.m. and in Bitburg at 2:30 p.m. Other parades take place Monday in Trier from noon to 4:30 p.m. and in Binsfeld at 2:11 p.m. Marchers typically parade from one end to the other of the town’s main square.

■From Feb. 27-March 4, local train



File photo by Ms. Iris Reiff
Fasching paraders march through Trier at last year’s celebrations.

stations offer discounted group rates on travel to Fasching carnivals after 9 p.m. throughout the Eifel region. The “Karneval Ticket” costs only 11.11 euros and is good for up to five people.

Information, Tickets and Tours offers the following tours in February. People should register for trips at least three days in advance. Children’s prices are for ages 3-12, unless specified otherwise. Call 452-6567 for more information.

■Bavarian highlights overnight tour, March 8-9. Cost is \$159 for adults, \$139 for children.

■Polish pottery shopping express, March 14-15. Cost is \$49 per seat, plus \$6 border fee.

■Black Forest express, March 15. Cost is \$55 for adults, \$45 for children.

■Cochem castle medieval dinner, March 22. Cost is \$69.

■Paris overnight, March 22-23. Cost is \$189 for adults, \$139 for children.



Devon Gardner

Flat to the mat

At 63 pounds, Eric Whittington holds his Stuttgart opponent with an intense reverse half-nelson, pinning his rival within moments. The 10-year-old went on to take first in his weight class leaving his challengers in his wake during the season opener youth wrestling tournament in Heidelberg Germany, Feb. 22. Veteran wrestler and Eifel Youth wrestling program team captain Scotty McQuiston lead the pack with tournament victories. Bryan Gastelum, Gary Vogt, Eric Whittington and Justin Deyak also claimed first in their weight categories. Though sometimes overshadowed, base youth programs have proven to be the nurturing source of much of the high school sports team success, according to wrestling coach Ethan Lake. The team seeks boys and girls ages 14 and older to be a part of its winning program. Call Tom Gilbert of the youth services office at 452-7545 for more information.

Third time's a charm ...

Lady Barons hold fast to European championship

By Denny Lemmon
Lady Barons basketball coach

One of the Lady Barons' preseason goals was to claim the European championship for a third consecutive year. With a six-win and six-loss record, the Bitburg High School ladies basketball team claimed its dream although it seemed a distant shot. This past weekend playing in Mannheim, Germany, the ladies of the Eifel won five games, holding fast the championship title.

Ladies vs. Falcons

Thursday afternoon, the Lady Barons opened play with a smashing victory over the eighth seed, Vilseck Falcons. The Falcons tried to control the scoring of All-European center Nadia Parker with double-teaming. However, the ladies held a strong defense, keeping the Falcons to low scoring.

Ladies vs. Panthers

The BHS team completed the first step towards reaching its goal. The second step, beating the Hanau Panthers, was more challenging. The ladies started the game with an old defensive trick — play a sagging man-to-man defense. The tactic worked well in confusing the Panthers. Hanau team came out with a stinging full-court press, which caused many turnovers and allowed the Panthers to outscore the BHS ladies 16-4 in the fourth quarter, ending the game with the Lady Barons as the victors. Hanau experienced its first loss of the season.

Ladies vs. Black Forest Academy

After a well-deserved good night's rest, the Lady Barons were ready for the day's action against the Black Forest Academy Falcons. The Lady Barons held a stinging defense against the Falcons, keeping the team to just three points in the first half while the offense clicked for 23 points. In an attempt to stop the BHS ladies from scoring, the Falcons covered the Lady Barons' center Parker with at least two players. Tanja Moore and Carletta Hernandez found plenty of space to score; however, and led the Barons with 13 and 12 points respectively. Despite the double team coverage Parker still scored 12 points, pulled down 13 rebounds, made six steals and had five blocked shots to her record. The Barons coasted on to a 39-21 victory for their third win in the tournament.

Ladies vs. Patch Panthers

With three wins, the Lady Barons moved into the final four to play the Patch Panthers. At the same time, Hanau played SHAPE. The BHS ladies managed to take a 10-five lead into the half. The team outscored the Patch Panthers 7-4 in the third quarter to lead 17-10, going into the final eight minutes of play. The fourth quarter was difficult, but the Lady Barons outscored 10-6. The earlier lead was enough and the Lady Barons held on for a 23-20 victory. In the meantime, the Hanau Panthers defeated SHAPE.

Lady Barons final win

The BHS ladies fifth and final game of the weekend was against the undefeated conference champions, the Hanau Panthers. The Panthers controlled the ball with the opening tip off and scored some easy points. However, in the first quarter, the Lady Barons outscored its opponent 14-3. The BHS team went on to play a sagging man-to-man defense almost to perfection and claimed a 21-13 lead into the half. In the third quarter, the Lady Barons extended its lead to 31-20. The team could feel the thrill of victory; however, the Panthers hadn't given up. The team came out with a devastating full-court pressure defense that once again caused many turnovers and easy points. A couple of three-pointers brought the Panthers within one point of the Lady

Barons with just under two minutes to go in the game. Then a foul in the Lady Barons' favor gave the team three key free throws in the last seconds of the game. Three successful baskets sealed the game victory for the BHS ladies, 43-41.

With a young and inexperienced team the Lady Barons worked hard to achieve its goal. Congratulations to players Hernandez, Moore, Parker, Sabrina Blaus, Erica Winters, Chelsea Gavagan, Jazmine Winn, Monica Bintz, Krystle Vasquez, Melodie Duperval and Andrea Drake. Kudos also to managers Shelly Reeves, Ashley Weston and Joanna Booth.

Moore was selected All-Conference honorable mention. Parker was selected on the first team All-Conference for a second consecutive year. The sophomore was also selected as the tournament most valuable player.

Barons finish fourth in Division II tourney

By Beverly Phillips
Barons basketball correspondent

Two upset wins on the first day of the Division II boys European basketball tournament propelled the Bitburg Barons to a fourth place finish and a degree of respect that had eluded them throughout the regular season. With a 3-9 regular season record, Bitburg High School was the only Division II boys team to defeat higher-ranked teams in the preliminary rounds.

Thursday play

Although the Barons started slowly in their opening game against Hanau, sophomore point guard Erik Pumbo sparked the team with 18 points, including two three-pointers in the first quarter. A string of steals on Hanau's inbound passes in the fourth quarter helped Bitburg come back from a 40-35 third-quarter deficit to win 60-54. Pumbo, Joel Parker, Joel Brown, and Ryan Thomas were each credited with three steals in the game. Parker, a senior, had 14 points; Brown, a junior, had 10; and senior Raynaldo Hernandez added seven points.

Parker secured his spot on the all-tournament team with a 26-point performance against Vilseck, in which he hit 10 of 13 shots from the field and six of six free throw attempts. He also dished out four assists and blocked two shots. Thomas, a senior, was second in scoring with 10 points and he swiped the ball four times. Freshman B.J. Phillips scored eight points. Phillips and Brown each snared 12 rebounds. Pumbo had five steals and five assists as Bitburg went on to a 54-44 win.

Friday action

A heartbreaking one-point loss to SHAPE Friday morning, 59-58, was the pivotal element in dashing the Barons' hopes of a "Hoosier"-style finish. Despite a couple of emotion-tinged mistakes in the second half, BHS had a one-point lead and the ball with 18 seconds left in the game. An ill-advised, off-balance shot allowed SHAPE to get the rebound and take it down court for the winning shot. The Barons didn't quit even then, however. With 5 seconds left, the team quickly got the ball back to their end of the court and got off a 12-foot shot that wouldn't fall. There was significant contact against the Baron going up for the rebound, but the officials chose not to call a foul. The team was also shorted at least a second of time when SHAPE knocked the ball out of bounds well before the final buzzer sounded. Again, however, the officials failed to blow a whistle.

Leading scorers against SHAPE were Parker with 16 points, Phillips with 11 points, Pumbo with 10, and Thomas with eight. Phillips was the leading rebounder with 11. Pumbo added six rebounds, six assists, and four steals. Thomas had six steals and three assists. Phillips also snagged five steals and served up three assists.

A deflated BHS squad didn't put up much of a fight against the number one-seeded Mannheim team Friday afternoon in the contest that determined who would play in the championship game. The home-town team used the partisan crowd and Bitburg's ice-cold shooting to take a 17-4 first quarter lead and Mannheim easily held on to win, 55-34. Brown and Alyx Walks scored 11 and nine points, respectively. Phillips scored eight points and had seven rebounds. Brown had 11 rebounds.

Saturday games

The loss to Mannheim relegated BHS to playing for third place on Saturday against Patch, which had also lost to SHAPE by one point. The Barons dominated in the early going and held a 17-7 lead at the end of the first quarter. The team actually led for more than 31 minutes, but Patch edged ahead at the end and won, 46-45.

Bitburg had entered the tournament ranked seventh out of the eight teams in Division II.